




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE  
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
1305 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

July 9, 2010

Mr. Myles (Chip) Boothe, Chair  
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia WA 98504

Dear Mr. Boothe: 

Thank you for your letter of May 21, 2010 regarding data management, sharing and reporting for national marine sanctuaries, as outlined in a resolution of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (OCNMS AC). I agree there is an increasing need for timely dissemination of data to characterize the health of our national marine sanctuaries and educate the public on critical issues.

In the past, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) worked to address data management and dissemination through the Information Management and Spatial Technology (IMaST) program. The purpose of IMaST was to address the technological and data management requirements of ONMS at the national, regional and site levels. IMaST had two goals: to develop a centralized data management system and portal at the national office that would be available to internal and external users and to increase the capabilities of each sanctuary to address its unique data sets and needs.

To further the early progress of the IMaST program, ONMS will convene a data management workshop to support the data management and dissemination requirements of OCNMS within the next twelve months. The goal is to bring together key tribal staff, agencies, academic and interested user groups to identify issues and solutions for processing and serving information within OCNMS in a timely manner. A data management plan will be drafted, positioning OCNMS to pursue additional funding for implementation. This is consistent with OCNMS's draft management plan Strategy DAT2: Data Distribution.

ONMS is also working on developing and implementing a sentinel site program to increase our understanding and awareness of impacts from climate change and ocean acidification. We will be convening a workshop in winter 2011 with NOAA program staff and key research and management partners to define the monitoring and data management systems needed to support a sentinel site program. Given the stated interests of the OCNMS AC in climate change and data management, I would like to invite an OCNMS AC representative to participate in the workshop. Please respond to Steve Gittings, National Science Coordinator, with the member of your choice to participate in the workshop.

Thank you for your continued interest and commitment to understanding and protecting marine ecosystems and for your recommendations on data management and distribution.

Sincerely,

  
Daniel J. Basta  
Director, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

